

Message Text

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EXDIS STADIS////////////////////////////////////

E.O. 11652: XGDS-3
TAGS: PLOS, ISRAEL
SUBJECT: LOS: ISRAEL

1. SUMMARY: ISRAELI LOS REP, AMB. NAJAR REITERATED TO AMB. RICHARDSON ISRAEL'S CONCERN ABOUT BOTH STATES OF ECONOMIC ZONE AND STRAIT OF TIRAN, AND URGED SUPPORT FOR VIEW THAT TERRITORIAL SEA OF ONE STATE CANNOT BE ESTABLISHED SO AS TO CUT OFF ACCESS OF ANOTHER STATE IN AN ENCLOSED OR SEMI-ENCLOSED SEA. WITH REFERENCE TO ALLON-KISSINGER LETTER DEALING WITH THESE ISSUES IN APPARENT CONTEXT OF NAVIGATION ASPECTS OF US ASSURANCES IN CONNECTION WITH SINAI ACCORDS, NAJAR NOTED CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS US COMMITMENTS BY SECRETARY VANCE. ISSUE LINKED TO TURKEY'S PROBLEMS IN AGEAN. END SUMMARY.

2. ISRAELI LOS REP AMB. NAJAR MET PRIVATELY WITH AMB. RICHARDSON MARCH 8 TO REVIEW ISRAELI CONCERNS REGARDING LOS NEGOTIATIONS. NAJAR STRESSED HIS VIEW THAT TOO LITTLE ATTENTION IS BEING PAID TO PROBLEMS IN ENCLOSED AND SEMI-ENCLOSED SEAS. ENTIRE MEDITERRANEAN AND RED SEA WILL BE DIVIDED AMONG COASTAL STATES. IF IT IS NOT CLEAR THAT 200-MILE ECONOMIC ZONES ARE HIGH SEAS, A PERILOUS SITUATION WOULD EXIST FOR ISRAEL IN

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RED SEA AND ALONG SOUTH COAST OF MEDITERRANEAN.

3. NAJAR NOTED THAT SECRETARY VANCE CONFIRMED PREVIOUS US COMMITMENTS. HE REVIEWED US STATEMENTS AND COMMITMENTS REGARDING NAVIGATION, AND REFERRED TO ALLON-KISSINGER LETTER IN THIS REGARD.

4. NAJAR EMPHASIZED THAT THERE IS A POSSIBILITY OF SERIOUS CONFLICT IN NARROW PASSAGES THAT IT IS BETTER TO AVOID. IN APPARENT REFERENCE TO TIRAN, HE SAID WE MIGHT CURRENTLY FIND SUCH CONCERNS SURREALISTIC, BUT IN THE FUTURE (HE LEFT THOUGHT INCOMPLETE AT THIS POINT; INFERENCE IS THAT HE WAS REFERRING TO POSSIBLE SITUATION IN WHICH ISRAEL WAS NO LONGER IN PHYSICAL CONTROL OF SINAI).

5. NAJAR NOTED THAT FRG, TURKEY, AND ISRAEL AGREE THAT IT WOULD BE DESIRABLE TO STATE IN TREATY THAT NO STATE CAN ESTABLISH ITS TERRITORIAL SEA IN SUCH MANNER AS TO CUT OFF ANOTHER STATE. IF 3 US ALLIES ARE INTERESTED, THEY CAN ASK FOR US INTEREST AS WELL. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTION, NAJAR INDICATED HE DID NOT EXPECT ARAB SUPPORT FOR SUCH A PRINCIPLE, BUT THE RESPONSE TO QUESTION AVOIDED SAYING WHETHER HE REGARDED THIS AS A BETTER BET THAN ARTICLE 43 OF DRAFT TEXT (DEALING WITH STRAITS LIKE TIRAN AQUABA THAT WOULD NOT CONNECT 2 PARTS OF HIGH SEAS). HE NOTED THAT IRAQ HAD SIMILAR CONCERNS BECAUSE OF ITS FEAR THAT IT COULD BE CUT OFF IN PERSIAN GULF, BUT GENERAL ARAB PRESSURE ON TIRAN ISSUE MIGHT PREVAIL OVER IRAQ'S NATIONAL INTERESTS. AS SUEZ CAPACITY EXPANDS, EGYPT ITSELF IS INTERESTED IN FREE FLOW THROUGH GIBRALTAR AND BAB-EL-MANDEB. BUT ARABS REGARD RED SEA AS (ARAB?) REGIONAL SEA. CATTO

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